NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND IMF

*274. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it s a fact that negotiations between the IMF and Government over the proposed massive loan to meet the exceptional financial requirements have come to a standstill because of certain pre-requisites to be fulfilled by Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANQE AND MINIS- ' TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Ind a satisfaciorjly concluded a $ 2.2 billion Upper Credit Tranche Standby Arrangement with the IMF in June 1993. Thereafter, preliminary discussions have been held with the IMF for an Extended Fund Facility Arrangement with a blend of,' ESAF resources. These discussions have also been inter-woven with the Article IV, Consultations. The discussion on the aforesaid will be continued further in the light of review of the country's balance of payments situation 'ncluding the need for exceptional financiisg.

FAILURE OF LOCAL RADIO CONCEPT

*275. SHRI DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY ; Will the Minster of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to slate :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the "local radio concept" is a failure as frequency modulation (FM) bands are not avalable in the old radios and new raidos having FM band are not in the reach of common man due to high cost; and

(b) if so, what steps Government pro pose to take to make it a success ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir. Local radio concept with F.M. band is net a failure. Due to saturation of channels available on MedIum Wave band, there is now little scope of further expansion in this field. Moreover, F.M. band has inherent advantages of better quality, uniformity of reception, both during day and night, and noise free quality of listening. Good quality F.M. receivers are now available in the market at reasonably low cost, which would further come down in future, with increasing demand, and compet'tion among industries.

(b) Question does not arise.

POSTAL FACILITIES IN VILLAGES

*276. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

SHRI ANANl RAM JAISWAL :

will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what, according to the recent assess-ment, it any, made by Government, is the total number of villages in the country which are lacking postal facilities (State-wise):

(b) what is the number of villages which have been provided with postal facilities during 1992 and 1993 (till date) as against the target stating the reasons for the shortfall, if, any, in the targets;

(c) whether any t me bound programme to provide postal facilities in the villages has been formulated by Government; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A statement (I) indicating Statewise number of villages not having post offices is placed on the Table of the House. (See below)

(b) A statement (II) is laid on the Table of the House. There was no shortfall in achieving the target last year. (See below)

(c) and (d) There is no time bound programme for providing post offices in all the villages. Government's objective is to progressively extend the postal network to all villages which satisfy the norms prescribed in accordonce with the Government's policy within the resources available, giving priority to gram panchayat headquarters where no post offices are available in the Panchayat areas.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise number of villages without post office as on date

S. No	Name of State	No. of villages without post offices
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17564
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3385
3.	Assam	20178
4.	Bihar	56445
5.	Delhi	9
6.	Goa	186
7.	Gujarat	10483
8.	Haryana	4890
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14429
10.	Karnataka	21022
11.	Kerala	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	66404
13.	Maharashtra	28485
14.	Manipur	844
15.	Meghalaya	4605
16.	Mizoram	398
17.	Nagaland	940
18.	Orissa	43267
19.	Punjab	9055
20.	Rajasthan	28865
21.	Sikkim	228
22.	Tamil Nadu	6195
23.	Tripura	2508
24.	Uttar Pradesh	94692
25.	West Bengal	31139
26.	J&K	5244

STATEMENT—II

Circle-wise Number of EDBO and DSO targeted and sanctioned daring 1992-93 *and* 1993-94

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	1992-93				1993-94			
		Target of EDBO	Sanctioned EDBO	Target DSO	Sanctioned	Target EDBO	Sanctioned EDBO	Target DSO	Sanctioned DSO
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	6	5	9	10	10	3	1
2.	Assam .	27	27	3	3	25	26	5	..
3.	Bihar .	70	70	8	3	90	66	8	..
4.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	5	9	Nil	Nil	6	..
5.	Gujarat .	25	30	5	5	15	13	8	..
6.	Haryana	10	10	3	4	15	15	5	..
7.	Himachal Pradesh	15	15	1	1	90	60	2	.
8.	J&K .	5	5	1	Nil	18	Nil	1	..
9.	Karnataka	15	15	5	7	15	15	6	..
10.	Kerala	10	15	3	7	30	30	3	.
11.	Maharashtra	55	62	10	20	80	73	11	..
12.	Madhya Pradesh	55	55	5	7	30	29	5	..
13.	North East	35	35	5	1	40	29	4	..
14.	Orissa	40	40	5	8	40	32	4	1
15.	Punjab	10	10	3	3	7	7	3	..
16.	Rajasthan	60	60	6	9	25	30	5	..
17.	Tamil Nadu	14	10	7	5	8	6	4	..
18.	Uttar Pradesh	75	100	10	11	93	52	12	3
19.	West Bengal	60	70	10	4	40	9	5	..
	TOTAL	600	635	100	116	671	502	100	5